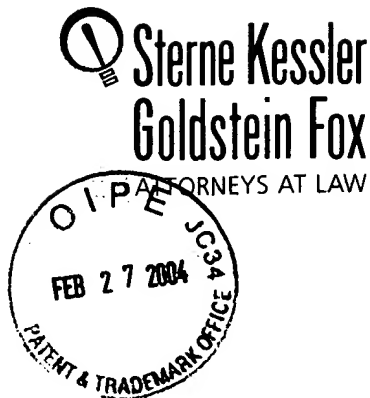


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February 27, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1636**

Re: Allowed U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/599,452; Filed: June 22, 2000  
For: **Rapid Growing Microorganisms for Biotechnology Applications**  
Inventors: Bloom *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4970001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

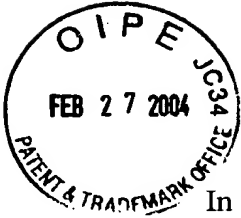
Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Frank R. Cottingham  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 50,437

FRC/shr  
Enclosures

SKGF\_235260.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bloom *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/599,452

Filed: June 22, 2000

For: **Rapid Growing Microorganisms  
for Biotechnology Applications**

Confirmation No.: 7893

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: Lambertson, D.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4970001/RWE/FRC

**Status Inquiry Letter**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned of the present status of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Date: February 27, 2004

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